

WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
208 Shiloh Road
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401

MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) held their monthly board meeting on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Worland at the WCCD office. WCCD Board members in attendance included; Charley Orchard, Dan Rice, Dave Slover, and Vance Lungren. Also, in attendance was WCCD Director Victoria Dietz, and guests Steve Snyder and Mike Ondo.

Dave called the WCCD board meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Dan made a motion to approve the WCCD October 15, 2018 board meeting agenda. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD Board reviewed the draft September 17, 2018 board meeting minutes. Dan made a motion to approve the September 17, 2018 minutes as read. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD Board reviewed the draft September 21, 2018 special meeting minutes as read. Charley made a motion to approve the September 21, 2018 special meeting minutes. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; -\$27,532.66 Main Money Market account; \$98,699.42, Emergency Reserve Money Market account; \$76,482.36, Depreciation Reserve Savings account; \$2,005.57, and CD balance; \$16,738.85. The September 2018 bank statements for all accounts were reconciled by Dan Rice and all reconciliation reports were provided. Tori reported that the mill levy funding received to date was \$25,732.82, compared to \$24,625.42 the same time last year.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with the monthly expenditure spreadsheet report from September 18, 2018 through October 15, 2018. Vance moved to accept the monthly expenditure and financial report. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following vouchers were reviewed and approved:

Date	Payment To	Invoice Number	Check Number	Amount
9/21/2018	307 Accounting Services, Inc.	8638	8070	\$93.75
9/27/2018	Dusty Vail	8639	Electronic	\$372.17
9/27/2018	Karen Fenton	8640	Electronic	\$1,629.46
9/27/2018	Melanie Dedic	8641	Electronic	\$814.39

9/27/2018	Victoria Dietz	8642	Electronic	\$1,990.77
9/28/2018	Verizon Wireless	8643	8071	\$10.00
9/28/2018	R.T. Communications	8644	8072	\$100.37
9/28/2018	BlueCross BlueShield	8645	8073	\$1,411.32
9/28/2018	Wyoming Retirement	8646	8074	\$1,012.87
9/28/2018	Karen Fenton	8647	8075	\$480.00
9/28/2018	Security State Bank	8648	Electronic	\$1,398.14
10/1/2018	Empower Retirement-Wyo. Ret.	8649	Electronic	\$1,000.00
10/1/2018	Department of Workforce Services	8650	Electronic	\$559.61
10/1/2018	Washakie County Solid Waste Dist	8651	8076	\$180.00
10/1/2018	Dan Rice	8652	8077	\$159.14
10/1/2018	Vance Lungren	8653	8078	\$7.63
10/1/2018	Charley Orchard	8654	8079	\$142.79
10/1/2018	Dave Slover	8655	8080	\$104.64
10/1/2018	Susan Pennington	8656	8081	\$63.77
10/2/2018	Ten Sleep FFA	8657	8082	\$110.55
10/3/2018	Kennedy Ace Hardware	8658	8083	\$114.96
10/4/2018	Western Heritage Consulting	8659	8084	\$27,887.31
10/5/2018	Serlkay Printing	8660	8085	\$182.00
10/9/2018	NACD	8661	8086	\$1,776.00
10/9/2018	Daily News	8662	8087	\$80.00
10/12/18	Cardmember Servic	8663	8088	\$1,991.12

DC REPORT:

No NRCS personnel were present. Laura Galloway provided the following written DC Report prior to the WCCD Board meeting, as follows:

Assistance given to the District: Engineering, and CTA

CTA Assistance: Phone calls with assistance on Soils, Irrigation Water Management, and Grazing Plans, streambank erosion problems, fencing, pollinator planting and cover crop seeding, solar well systems, spring development plans.

EWP: Worland Sewer Project – I have requested a written statement of the policy and justification for why the review team felt the area that has sluffed off is part of the operation and maintenance for this project. This written justification will include why NRCS does not pay on fixing operation and maintenance issues.

EQIP:

- We have received the draft copy of the design for the 3 projects being designed by Western Heritage engineering firm. We are currently reviewing these for corrections or changes.
- Do to the uncertainty with the new farm bill, FY19 timelines and tools have not been released. We are supposed to be getting a new ranking tool, CART, and we will be learning more about it at our all employees meeting.
- We continue to do as-builts, modifications, and project checks for active contracts.

NWQI

- NWQI was one of the national initiative selected for an early sign up period for FY19.
- The batching date for the early sign up is November 2, 2018.
- The obligation date for these contracts will January 18, 2019 so it is a very short turnaround time.
- We have evaluated the map for potential projects and have been checking with those people within the watershed whom we think might have a potential project to see if they would like to apply.

CSP: Payments can now be made to those participants who have turned in their required documents.

NCPP

- The NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership) listening session will be in Casper October 16th from 8 to 5 at the Ramkota Inn.
- This session is a venue to allow NRCS, its partners, its clientele and its employees, to inform each other and the national team about the conservation planning process in Wyoming and how it affects all of us.
- You are all welcome to join us and please do so if you can.

Area Conservationist Change

- Rigo Lopez, the Rocky Mountain area resource conservationist has accepted a job in Texas and moved back to be closer to family members who need assistance.
- Tim Becket is our acting Area resource conservationist.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Karen Fenton's monthly report was provided to the WCCD Board.

Melanie Dedic's monthly report was provided to the WCCD Board.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with her September Timesheet and reported on the following:

Big Horn River Level I Study Public Meeting Report, reporting that there were only five landowners in attendance and talked with the WCCD Board about ideas for outreach. Also brought forth, was an inquiry from a landowner at that meeting regarding including the cost of water rights along with a project cost in a Rural Cost Share Program application. The WCCD board agreed that due to minimal funding available each year, the Rural Cost Share Program funds should only cover actual project costs. Steve Snyder suggested that Tori put the landowner in contact with Sandy Richard, with the Upper

Hanover Canal, to inquire about utilizing canal water under their trespass category. Tori stated that she would also ask NRCS if they can still offer technical assistance to the landowner for possible delivery system and pump size information. Worland Sewer EWP Update from NRCS, reporting that she has still not received documentation as to field notes from NRCS Engineers who had conducted a site visit, their determination of what to do to fix the problem, and explanation that NRCS won't provide payment; Paxton Berm EWP Update, reporting that the small batch of rock in the Wind River Canyon had been hauled and Nelson Engineering had begun their survey and information gathering of the project site; Public Records Meeting Report, reporting that she attended the Joint Corporations meeting in Thermopolis, but was not able to stay until the Public Records topic was discussed. Nowood WID Meeting Report, briefly reporting on the meeting she attended via teleconference and stating that Dan Rice would give a more detailed report later on the agenda. Dan asked Tori if she had asked the Nowood WID Board to copy WCCD on their correspondence. Tori stated that she had only asked for the monthly minutes but would also ask them to be copied on correspondence. Tori stated that she had received a call from a landowner stating that they had not received a letter regarding the reservoir shares. Dan stated that he didn't know if the Nowood WID board had sent the letter to all of the landowners; NACD TA Grant Update, reporting that she had talked to both Laura and Allen, Worland NRCS, and they were very satisfied with work that is being accomplished by the contractor, who had recently submitted the preliminary designs for the project. Tori also stated that NACD has informed her that there will be another round of grants coming in November and had discussed it with Laura to see if there was a need for additional design work; Reports Due, reporting on the grant reports she has been working on and has recently completed; Watershed Improvement District (WID) Election Update, reporting that the mail ballots were mailed out last Thursday for both WID's and has confirmed the canvass place, dates, and board members. Tori added that Karen and Melanie have agreed to conduct the polling on election night.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Big Horn River Level I Study Public Meeting Report – Vance gave a summary report of the Big Horn River Level I Study public meeting that he had attended at the Worland Community Center on September 27th and stated that he thought it to be very informative and stressed the importance of outreach for awareness of what the study is about. Discussion has held by the WCCD Board on possible ways to ensure that people understand or know about the benefit of having a level I, other than a newspaper ad. Discussion were also held on content to include in the outreach information to grab landowner attention. Tori stated that she would share these ideas with Brenda Ashworth, Y2 Consultants.

Alkali Creek Reservoir Public Meeting(s) Report – Dan gave a summary report of the BLM public meeting he had attended, for the Alkali Creek Reservoir EIS held in Hyattville on September 20th.

Public Records Meeting Report – Dan gave a summary report on the Joint Corporations meeting he attended in Thermopolis for Public Records. Dan stated that they were not able to complete discussions during the meeting due to time constraints and had formed a sub-committee to address the draft bills in November.

Nowood Watershed Improvement District (WID) Meeting(s) Report – Dan gave a report on discussions held during the Nowood WID meeting he attended on October 1st in Manderson, and the meeting held in

Hyattville on October 9th regarding the Alkali Creek Reservoir shares contribution information. Dan explained the financial information of the loan, the breakdown of the cost of the shares, the timeline of the project completion, and discussion held regarding future management of the reservoir.

OLD BUSINESS

WACD Watershed Conference – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the upcoming WACD Watershed Conference flyer for February 20th and 21st as an FYI, stating that she has not received any updated information on the conference.

Alkali Creek Reservoir Environmental Impace Statement (EIS) Comments – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the final comments on the BLM Alkali Creek Reservoir EIS, which had been previously reviewed by the WCCD Board and completed by Karen Fenton on their behalf. The comments were submitted to the BLM today.

NEW BUSINESS

Rural Cost Share Program Application Presentation - Mike Ondo and Steve Snyder gave the WCCD Board an overview of a project, asking for Rural Cost Share Program funds to bury a waste ditch and install a settling pond. Discussion was held, and the project application and map were provided. Steve stated that he was unable to provide photos as he had damaged his phone where the photos were stored. Tori stated that the WCCD Board would be ranking the project during their November 19th WCCD Board meeting.

Budget Amendment Hearing – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the draft WCCD fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget amendment. Tori explained that she will has received an invoice from Nowood Construction for the hauling of part of the rock that will be used for the Paxton Berm EWP project and will soon be receiving the first invoice from Nelson Engineering as they have begun the engineering designing for the project. Tori stated that she anticipates that WCCD will be receiving approximately \$160,000 from NRCS for cost reimbursement for invoices totaling approximately \$160,000. The WCCD FY 2019 budget amended includes an increase to income at \$160,000 and an increase to expense at \$160,000. Dan made a motion to approve the WCCD FY 2019 Budget Amendment for the Paxton Berm EWP Income and Expenses. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave signed the budget amendment.

BLM Sage Grouse MOU – Tori provided the WCCD Board with an MOU from the BLM regarding the process to potentially amend BLM's Wyoming's Land Use Plans for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Management and asked for the WCCD's Board approval and signature. After some discussion, Dan made a motion to approve entering into an MOU with the BLM regarding their potential amendment to the Wyoming's Land Use Plans for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Management. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave signed the MOU.

Watershed Improvement District (WID) Canvass Board Appointments – Tori reported that Tom Brewster has been asked, but not confirmed, and Cal Tharp has indicated that he will canvass for the Nowood WID on November 7th at the Manderson Fire Hall at 6:00 p.m. In addition, Doug Bleak has agreed to canvass for the Cottonwood Grass Creek WID on November 8th at Kirby Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. Dan made a motion to appoint Tom Brewster and Cal Tharp as canvass board members for the

Nowood WID canvass and to appoint Doug Bleak as a canvass board for the Cottonwood Grass Creek WID. Tori stated that Darcy has agreed to provide a canvass board member to represent Hot Springs CD. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) What's Up Email/Attachments – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the email from Bobbie at WACD, which included the WACD ESA Rule Comments, Legislative Update, and WACD Convention information. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming legislation, then the WCCD Board reviewed the three resolutions with the following support status:

-Resolution 1 – EPA National Streams & Rivers Assessment program – Charley made a motion to support Resolution 1. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-Resolution 2 – NRCS Geology Requirements – Dan made a motion to support Resolution 2. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-Resolution 3 – Emergency Disaster Water Development – Dan made a motion to not support until further information is gathered. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori stated that she would contact Joan at Medicine Bow Conservation District to get more information on Resolution 3, then send it out to the WCCD Board members so they could let Dan know their thoughts before convention.

WACD Convention - Tori provided the WCCD Board with the draft WACD Convention, asked them who would be attending, and asked for preference on what to buy for the fundraising auction and employees silent action table. Dan stated that he would be attending convention. No other WCCD Board members in attendance committed going to convention and Tori stated that she would contact Susan to see if she would be going. The WCCD Board approved of the auction item suggestion from Tori. Tori stated that she wasn't sure yet if she would be able to attend.

Ten Sleep Library Meeting Room Information – Tori reported that she had contacted Karen Funk with the Ten Sleep Library and had not yet gone to fill out the application form to submit to Karen. Tori stated that Karen didn't currently charge for the use of the room and there was Wi-Fi available. Tori stated that she had visited with Tina at the Ten Sleep Senior Center about last months issues with the Wi-Fi speed and Tina had sent her an email that she thought the issue had been fixed. Tori said she would move forward with submitting the application for the Library room and will update the WCCD Board during their November board meeting.

National Conservation Planning Partnership Listening Session – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the draft agenda and fact sheet for the upcoming NRCS listening session. Tori reported that she has been working with Cathy Rosenthal, Watershed Coordinator on providing her with the information on the National Water Quality Initiative for her presentation for this session. Tori stated that Karen Fenton planned to listen in on the session.

Farm Bill Side by Side – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the Farm Bill Side by Side sent by Bobbie at WACD.

CORRESPONDENCE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE:

Wyoming Public Lands Initiative August & September Report;

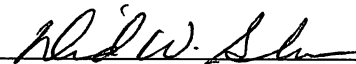
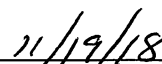
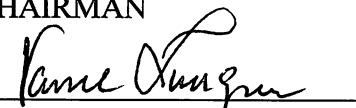
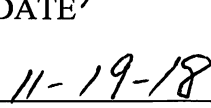
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dept. of Ag Cornerpost Newsletter; NACD News 09182018; Wild Horse Advisory Board Meeting Notice; NACD News 09202018; Grizzly Bear Rule Vacated News Release; NACD News 09252018; NACD Annual Meeting Notice; NACD Clips 09282018; Bighorn Forest SOPA; Farm Bill Friday; NACD News 10022018; NACD Clips 10052018; Specialty Crop Workshop; Montana Partnership; Forest Service Sage Grouse Open House; NACD News 10092018; WACD Chapter 1 Scoping Comments; NACD Clips 10122018; WDA Alkali Creek Reservoir Comments;

The WCCD Board meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Date: October 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted by: Victoria Dietz, Director

	
CHAIRMAN	DATE
	
SECRETARY/TREASURER	DATE